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215056US-0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

AKIHIKO MORIKAWA ET AL. :

SERIAL NO: NEW US PCT APPLN. : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH  
(Based on PCT/JP01/01566)

FILED: HERewith :

FOR: THERMOPLASTIC ELASTOMER  
COMPOSITION, FOAM MADE FROM  
THE SAME, AND PROCESS FOR  
PRODUCING FOAM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

4. (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 1, wherein said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) has a insoluble of 10% by mass or more when dissolved in a boiling n-hexane.

7. (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 5 wherein said block copolymer (3) is obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer whose blocks at its both ends are those represented by A shown below and whose intermediate block is that

represented by B shown below, and wherein said A is present in an amount of 5 to 90 % by mass and said B is present in an amount of 10 to 95 % by mass based on 100 % by mass as the total of said A and said B, and wherein the 1, 2-vinyl group content in said A is less than 25 % by mole and the 1, 2-vinyl group content in said B is not less than 25 % by mole, and wherein at least 80 % of the all double bonds contained in said block copolymer (3) before the hydrogenation is saturated and the number average molecular weight is 50,000 to 700,000,

in which:

A: a butadiene polymeric block having a 1,2-vinyl group content lower than that in B shown below; and,

B: a conjugated diene polymeric block and/or a vinyl aromatic compound-conjugated diene random copolymeric block having a 1, 2-vinyl group content higher than that in A shown above.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are active in the present application. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No: \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment Filed on: \_\_\_\_\_

10-31-01

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--4. (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein said crystalline polyethylenic resin (2) has a insoluble of 10% by mass or more when dissolved in a boiling n-hexane.

7. (Amended) A thermoplastic elastomer composition according to Claim 5 [or 6] wherein said block copolymer (3) is obtained by hydrogenating a block copolymer whose blocks at its both ends are those represented by A shown below and whose intermediate block is that represented by B shown below, and wherein said A is present in an amount of 5 to 90 % by mass and said B is present in an amount of 10 to 95 % by mass based on 100 % by mass as the total of said A and said B, and wherein the 1, 2-vinyl group content in said A is less than 25 % by mole and the 1, 2-vinyl group content in said B is not less than 25 % by mole, and wherein at least 80 % of the all double bonds contained in said block copolymer (3) before the hydrogenation is saturated and the number average molecular weight is 50,000 to 700,000,

in which:

A: a butadiene polymeric block having a 1,2-vinyl group content lower than that in B shown below; and,

B: a conjugated diene polymeric block and/or a vinyl aromatic compound-conjugated diene random copolymeric block having a 1, 2-vinyl group content higher than that in A shown above. --